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ABSTRACT

This reader is intended for use in a bilingual education setting and is geared toward students who are competent speakers of Tanaina Athabaskan with a knowledge of the writing system. The story is about a favorite Tanaina game and the way it used to be played. The text is in an interlinear translation format and is followed by a free English translation. A table of the Tanaina alphabet and a display of the sound system are appended. (AMH)

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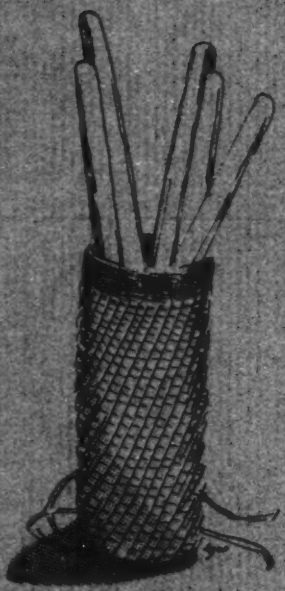

CH'ENLAHI SUKDU

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CH'ENLAHI SUKDU

The Gambling Story

is

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CH'ENLAHI SUKDU
The Gambling Story

Ts'eɬq'a Dena'ina sukdu nuhqulnish.
At one time Tanainas stories they used to tell.

Gini sukdu nutihna qeshqayi niɬ gheqidedatl'
In this story two rich men met

ch'u "ch'enlahi'eɬ chich'ul'ulni" qetni.
and "the gambling game let's play" they said.

Ts'eɬt'an kiɬ ghun ghel'ek.
One young man there was a shaman.

Ki ts'eɬt'an ghunhdi yadi ɬuq'u k'eɬan qaghi'u
The other fellow followed all the traditional

yiyich'ghelta. Ghel'egen ghun ts'eɬt'an
beliefs. Shaman that the

qeshqa ɬuq'u ya qeneɬnash.
rich man everything he was winning from him.

Yadi benqel'a ɬuq'u yech'ak'dinɬtuk'. Yethdi
All his possessions he took from him. Then

bech'enaqa be'u yadi q'uch'a bech'il'eq'na.
his children his wife that's all that was left to him.

"Yadi q'u sh'itighilal?" el'eqen ghun yeɬni.
"What will you bet me?" the shaman said.

Be'u, bech'enaqa, k'isna ch'u ts'eɬt'an
His wife, his children, girls and one

kiłqguya qqhila. Oa izhchit.
small boy there was. He longed to keep them.

Yethdi yadi benqel'a qilan łuq'u
Then all his belongings

yech'ayɑinłtuk'. "Yeghini n'itaqhełał nch'enaqa
he took from him. "Those I will bet you your children

niłtu," yełni. Kiłgguya ya izhchit
for," he said. The young boy he longed to keep

ch'u be'u qhun k'u ya izhchit. K'isna
and his wife also he longed to keep. Girls

tuq'ina yena yelaq'a qhiłdatl'. Yetqetl'eghhdi
three he gave to him. And after them

be'u ch'u kiłgguya bech'dalnen.
his wife and young boy were left.

"Nbenqel'a yadi qilan ch'u tuq'ina
"All your things and the three

k'isna iqhi n'u ch'u kiłgguya sh'inla,"
girls against your wife and boy bet me,"

yełni. Ndanen q'u qenunes ghenachen,
he said. Which one the most did he love,

be'u lagu kiłgguya lagu? Be'u qhun q'u
his wife or the young boy? His wife too

yelaq'a qhiłghel.
he gave to him.

Ɬuq'u benqel'a bech'enaqa be'u
All his belongings his children his wife

ɬuq'u yiyilu kiɬ qhun niɬtu. Yenki q'u
all he bet that boy for. Him too

yech'ayqhalkit. Ba k'qusil. El'eqen
he took from him. He had nothing. The shaman

yadi ndalyu q'uch'a bech'il'eq'i be'izin'a
all that he had even his last gun

ya qenaɬnun.
he had won.

Yen kiɬ qhun tiniyu ch'u yehqhu
That young man went out and far off

qheyuɬ. Dqhiliqenh aɬ yeghiɬ'uyi qhini
he walked. At the foothills a trap that he had set

yaqheniyudeqhu qunsha ba k'iqhetneq.
when he came to it a squirrel was caught.

Yethdi suɬik'yult'eq' ch'u k'deyesqqwa
And he was chewed up and a small skin

qeyan qhu daɬkiz. Yen yeqhetneq ch'u
only there was lying. He picked it up and

kɹt' idut'et.
pocket he put it in.

Yehqhu qheyuɬ yethdi nichiɬka qheniyu.
Far off he walked and then big house he came to.

Yuhqech' q'u, "Qandanshnesh," qeyeɬni.
From inside, "I heard you," someone said.

3.

"k'tu'ushch' naqatghilghełch'u
"The way the sun goes turn around and

qinldush." Yuh t'qidaghiłkegh. Qichika
come in." Inside it was big. A big old lady

yetghu ezdu. "Shqen bequl hq'u
there was sitting "My husband is gone but

na nutujuł," yełni. K'usht'a k'dit'al
he'll return to us," she said. Not long after

hq'u k'kegh'i' quht'ana ht'ingheju.
a giant man came in.

"Yaqheli. Ch'aduch' neł niqdalnenhdu
"Hello. What happened to you that

shqheninyu dit?," yełni.
you come to me?, " he said.

Yethdi yeł nuqelnek ts'ełt'an el'egen
Then he explained that shaman

ch'atbeyeluq. "El'egen shch'enaqa
what he had done to him. "The shaman my children

yethdi sh'u sh'undadaten q'uch'a kił
then my wife even my very last boy

yen k'u shch'ayghalkit. Iqhi guhdi
he from me took. And to here

ch'aduch' q'u qa neshu." "Yagheli," yełni.
somehow I came." " Good," he said.

"Quqhesht'a q'anhunilch'i' ch'u t'ntghełił."
"Well rest yourself and I'll fix you up."

Ouqhesht'a nuhuk'talch'ey yethdi
Well he rested then

k'deyesqqwa kut' idalkizi qhinhdi
the little skin he had put in his pocket that one

qhedetaznu ch'u bekuch'a huydalt'eq'.
started to move and from the pocket it jumped.

Ninya nusdlan. "Aa naqquya'eł
An animal it became again. "Yes with our child

na nuninju," k'keqh'i yełni. "Iqhi
you have come to us," the giant said. " And

shqquya shaqheshtudalnenhdi uhuq'anqghelyak
my child that I had lost I had searched all

shit'i. Iqhi ch'enlahi ghunen nen'eł
over for him. And the one who gambled with you

t'ghił'anen el'egen dini. Yaqheli.
is a shaman you say. Good.

Shik'u qudulyi sha qilan. T'ntgheł ił
I too medicine I have. I'll prepare you

bech' nutqhiljuł," yełni.
to go back to him," he said.

K'deyes qhini yuh nidalyu. Yen
Animal skins were piled in there. He

dendałts'eq'qqwah łuq'u yech'ak'deq'esh
little pieces from all of them he cut

ch'u k'ench'ik'ayes yeł yiyedełdeł.
and gutbag he put them into.

Ditushi yeɬ didqhilu. "Gini beɬ
Down feather with it he put in. " With this

nutqhijuɬ ch'u qini ditushi
you will return and these down feathers

ba dinɬtesh quht'ana k'usht'a ntnil'anhsht'a.
you sprinkle on it when no one is looking at you.

Ch'aduch' ninya k'kidza dendghiɬkeghhkugh
Many animal skins a large amount

yaqech' nututniɬ. Gini biditighilash."
it will turn back into. This you will bet."

Ch'u tuq'ih nulchiɬi ch'enlahi
And three sets of gambling sticks

nitninɬdatl'. Yen ya k'ighetnaɬchet.
he lay down. He wrapped this up.

"Unhsah beɬ chitqhil'ul
The first time you play with him

na qentuɬnash ch'u nenk'u
he'll win from you and you too

ba nuqentghilnash. Ndahkugh nik'ghanhtnu
will win from him. As you continue

ch'u 'ɬuq'u ba qitagheɬkeɬ' nidaznit dahdi,
and 'everything I will take from him' when he thinks,

qini ch'enlahi qetnitighiɬqesh.
this set of gambling sticks you will bounce down.

K'tu'ushch' naqatntujeh ch'u
the way the sun goes round they will spin and

łuq'u nenqel'a nch'enaqa nu'itighilkeł,"
all your belongings your children you will take back,"

yełni.
he said.

"Yethdi bedetghinił, 'Nenk'u
"Then you tell him, 'you too

sheghu shinluqch' nełuq. Gughu tinel'ets
do to me what I did to you. I went out

ch'u K'eluyesh qeyełnihen gheneshu.
and K'eluyesh the one they call I went to.

K'eluyesh shu qadinuqghiłchin ch'u
K'eluyesh resupplied me and

ch'enlahi shlaq'a denghiłdatl'.
the gambling sticks he gave to me.

Yełshughu na nuqnanlnun. K'eluyeshch'
With them I won back from you. To K'eluyesh

tiyush ch'u "Ch'enlahi shlaq'a dniłdał,"
go and "Gambling sticks give to me,"

bedini,'" yedghini.
you tell him,'" he said.

K'ch'eltanen dun'iju. Ch'enlahi'eł
Believer went back. When he

chiqul'uldeghu ch'aduch'huda K'ch'eltanen ghun
gambled again. this is why Believer

el'eqen'a nuqnalnun.
from the shaman he won back.

K'eluyesh qheniyudeqhu ch'u
When he went to K'eluyesh and

yadi ninya k'kidza qilan łuq'u yech'ak'-
pieces from all those skins which he

dqhiq'eshdeqhu yeqhini yaqech' K'eluyesh
cut off by means of K'eluyesh

el'eqen yeduqdinchet. Ghel'ek nit'an yethdi
blocked the shaman's magic. As he tried magic

yech'anqheshju nit'an yethdi, ki yadi ninya
as he tried to transform himself, he couldn't take

yihuqheltani k'qul. Ghel'ekni qenudutnik
the form of an animal again. He failed at magic

ch'u tiniyu ch'u
and he went out and

ki k'usht'a beqenqa nuqidlaqh.
there was no more word of him.

THE GAMBLING STORY

Tanainas once used to tell stories. In this story two rich men met and said, "Let's play the gambling game." One young man there was a shaman. The other fellow followed all the traditional beliefs. That shaman was winning everything from the rich man. He took all his possessions from him. Then his wife and children were all he had left.

"What will you bet me?" the shaman said. He had his wife and children, and one small boy. He longed to keep them. The shaman had taken all his belongings from him. He longed to keep the young boy and he longed to keep his wife. He gave him three girls. Only his wife and young boy were left.

"Bet me your wife and boy against all your things and the three girls," the shaman said. Which one did he love the most, his wife or the young boy? He gave him his wife.

All his belongings and his children and his wife he bet for that boy. The shaman took him too from him. He had nothing. The shaman had won all that he had, even his last gun.

That young man went out and walked a long way. When he came to a trap he had set at the foothills, a squirrel was caught in it. The squirrel was chewed up and only a small skin was lying there. He picked it up and put it in his pocket.

He walked a long way and then came to a big house. From inside someone said, "I heard you. Turn around clockwise and come in." It was big inside. A big old lady was sitting there. "My husband is away but he'll return to us," she said. Not long after a giant man came in. "Hello. What happened to you that you come to me?" he said.

Then he explained what that shaman had done to him. "The shaman took from me my children and then my wife and even my very last boy. And somehow I came here." "Good," he said. Rest yourself well and I'll fix you up. He rested well and then that little skin he had put into his pocket started to move and jumped from his pocket. It became an animal again. "Yes, you have come to us with our child," the giant said. "And I had searched all over for my child that I had lost. You said the one who gambled with you is a shaman. Good. I too have powers. I'll prepare you to go back to him," he said.

Animal skins were piled in there. He cut little pieces from all of them and put them into his gutbag. He put down-feathers in with them. "You'll return with this and sprinkle these down-feathers on it when no one is looking at you. It will turn back into a large amount of animal skins. You will bet this." And he lay down three sets of gambling sticks. He wrapped these up.

The first time you play with him he'll win from you and you too will win from him. As you continue and he thinks "I'll take everything from him," you will throw down this set of gambling sticks. They will spin clockwise and you will take back all your belongings and children," he said.

"Then you tell him, 'Do to me as I did to you. I went out and went to the one they call K'eluyesh. K'eluyesh resupplied me and gave me the gambling sticks. With them I won everything back from you. Go to K'eluyesh and tell him "Give me gambling sticks,"'" he said.

Believer went back. This is why Believer won everything back from the shaman when he gambled again. When he went to K'eluyesh, K'eluyesh blocked the shaman's magic by means of the pieces which he had cut from all those skins. As he tried magic, as he tried to transform himself, he couldn't take the form of an animal again. He failed at magic and went out and there was no more word of him.

THE TANAINA ALPHABET

Vowels

a	al$\dagger$	'trap'	i	ni	'island'
e	ne$\dagger$	'wedge'	u	ush	'snowshoe'

Consonants

b	ben	'lake'	g	gil	'it's no good'
ch	chu$\dagger$	'Chinook wind'	g'	g'in	'salmon eggs'
ch'	ch'da	'blanket'	s	se$\dagger$	'moccasins'
d	di$\dagger$	'dust'	sh	shani	'summer'
dl	dlin'a	'mouse'	t	ten	'ice'
dz	k'didza	'fur pelt'	t'	t'ash	'charcoal'
g	gena	'berry'	tl	tlegh	'oil'
gg	ggagga	'brown bear'	tl'	tl'i$\dagger$	'rope'
gh	ghin'i	'maggots'	ts	betsen	'his flesh'
h	ha$\dagger$	'pack'	ts'	ts'ah	'thread'
j	jah	'pitch'	x	sax	'wart'
k	ken	'flat'	y	yuyan	'universe, heavens'
l	kets'egh	'ring'	y	suy	'sand'
$\dagger$	$\dagger$ik'a	'dog'	zh	k'ghazha	'egg'
m	dem	'fly'	'	Dena'ina	'Tanaina people'
n	nuti	'salt'			

In Nondalton and Pedro Bay the letter b is pronounced as v.
The Upper Inlet dialect of Eklutna, Keik, Susitna, and Tyonek has seven fewer consonants than the other Tanaina dialects. In Upper Inlet sh and x become s; y, z, and zh become y; ch' becomes ts'; and j becomes dz.

These Tanaina sounds form a system, which can be displayed:

b	d	dl	dz	(j)	g	gg	'
	t	tl	ts	(ch)	k	q	
	t'	tl'	ts'	(ch')	k'	q'	
		$\dagger$	s	(sh)	x	h	
		l	(z)	(zh)	(y)	gh	

The consonants in parentheses ( ) are not in Upper Inlet Tanaina.